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LETTER DATED 10 AUGUST 1992 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO
THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government, and with reference to the letter of 6 August 1992 of the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations (S/24388), I have the honour to bring the following to your attention.

The situation in Iraq, particularly in the southern marshlands of that country, and its effect on regional and international peace and security has been a source of concern for the international community and the Security Council since March 1991. Various independent sources have confirmed the systematic campaign of elimination of the inhabitants of these areas. The available evidence includes "a videotape wherein the present Prime Minister is heard to instruct late in 1991 several Iraqi Army generals to 'wipe out' three specific Marsh Arab tribes".

Meanwhile, the Iraqi authorities continue to seek excuses to cover up their atrocities against innocent Iraqi civilians by levelling baseless and irresponsible allegations of Iranian interference in the internal affairs of Iraq. The Islamic Republic of Iran has, on numerous occasions, categorically rejected these allegations and reiterated its commitment to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq as well as its rejection, as a matter of principle, of any interference in the internal affairs of others.

However, like the entire international community, as exhibited by the mass media and United Nations documents, Iran cannot but express alarm at the indiscriminate attacks by Iraqi forces against innocent Iraqi civilians. The campaign of total annihilation of large segments of Iraqi population, which has recently been intensely escalated in the southern marshlands of Iraq against the mostly Shiite inhabitants of these areas, can lead to conditions similar to those of spring 1991, threatening regional and international peace and security. In this connection, the obligations of various organs of the United Nations, including the Security Council, within their respective roles stipulated by the Charter of the United Nations, to put an end to this campaign of elimination and the threat to regional and international peace and security need not be emphasized.

It would be highly appreciated if this letter were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) M. Javad ZARIF
Ambassador
Deputy Permanent Representative